

HONORING SHERYTHIA SCAIFE, RALPH DUKE, AND JOHNSON'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, in every one of our lives there are people and places that are really unique, and they are so special that they become an essential part of who we are and who our communities are and what they become over time.

Today, I want to recognize two people and one place that have not only helped shape who I am, but they have touched the lives of our entire community and thousands of people. Quite simply, they represent what is the very best about Tennessee.

This month Sherythia Scaife, a member of the board of directors for historic Belmont Mansion in Nashville, will receive the Helen Kennedy Award for volunteer service. The Belmont Mansion is truly one of those historical treasures in Tennessee; and Sherythia, the best way to sum it up is she is simply one of our treasures, such a wonderful woman.

As everyone involved in charity work can tell us, fund-raising is a tough job; but Sherythia committed her energies to preserving the Belmont Mansion, and she has helped lead the effort to raise funds for the Belmont Mansion. We are lucky to have this wonderful part of the past with us still, and we are even luckier to have someone like Sherythia Scaife here to help protect Belmont Mansion for the future.

In the city of Franklin, Tennessee, where I have one of my district offices, there was a man whom everyone knew. He was our friend, a leader, a small business owner. He was truly a pillar of the community. Ralph Duke started out as a grocery bag boy, and he ended up as our town's main street pharmacist and civic leader.

We lost Ralph just a few days ago; and in thinking about what he meant to all of us, I was amazed at just how much he had accomplished in his lifetime. He filled close to 1 million prescriptions over the years to keep us healthy. He served us as an alderman and worked to improve police and fire service to help keep us all safe; and Ralph, above all else, took the time to say hello and to care about people, making us all feel that part of the community was important.

Ralph will be missed, but he is with us in our memories, and his family is with us in our thoughts and prayers.

A church is not just a building. It is also a source of strength and solace for a community of people. It is a place to offer our thanks to the Lord and Johnson's Chapel United Methodist Church in Brentwood, Tennessee, will be celebrating its 200th birthday on October 4, 2003. While the church structure has been destroyed by fire and renovated

by man over those 200 years, the place has been one of God for all this time. It is a wonderful thing to think of the comfort and love that is so strong and true in this single location, a place that brings people together to worship our Lord, to honor our families, to celebrate some of life's most special occasions, like my niece's wedding, and sends them out into the world renewed, energized and excited about the word of God.

Madam Speaker, I imagine that all of my colleagues have stories like these of the wonderful places that exist in each of our districts, the things that make America and our communities so unique, a Nation where people like Sherythia Scaife and Ralph Duke can give of their time to others and a place where we can freely assemble in places of worship, such as Johnson's Chapel United Methodist Church.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF DR. MILTON WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to a great American, my good friend, the late Dr. Milton Wilson from Houston, Texas. Dr. Wilson passed away on September 2, 2003. I hope my colleagues will join me in extending deepest sympathies to his family as they mourn this great loss. Although Dr. Wilson will be sorely missed, his family can take comfort in remembering his numerous accomplishments and the incredible legacy he left behind.

Dr. Milton Wilson was born July 20, 1915, in Paducah, Kentucky. His father was a Pullman car porter, and both his mother and grandmother were public school teachers. His parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and a love for education that stayed with him throughout his life.

After graduating from Lincoln High School in Paducah, Kentucky, Milton Wilson went on to earn a bachelor's degree from West Virginia State College and later earned a master's degree, as well as a doctorate degree in business administration from Indiana University at Bloomington. In later years, he

returned to teach at Indiana University as a professor of accounting. His commitment to his students and his dedication to teaching earned him Indiana University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Wilson continued his very distinguished career as head of the Department of Accounting at Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia, through 1944. At the request of President Dent of Dillard University, Dr. Wilson moved to New Orleans to head the university's business department until 1949.

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Shortly thereafter, Dr. Wilson moved to my home State of Texas, and in 1952 became the first African American Certified Public Accountant in Texas. The President of Texas Southern University invited him to establish a Department of Business Administration, which later became the School of Business Administration, with Dr. Wilson serving as its first dean. Under Dean Wilson's leadership, TSU became the first school of business in Houston to gain accreditation by the American Assembly of College Schools of Business.

Because of trailblazing work, Dr. Wilson became nationally known as the dean of predominantly black business schools in this country. It was while he headed the TSU School of Business Administration that I first came to know Dr. Milton Wilson, his first wife Zelda, and his family. Mrs. Wilson, who passed away in 2001, was a beautiful, gracious and hospitable lady who always made me feel welcome in her home. I will always remember listening to her own stories and experiences, both challenging and rewarding.

His son, Milton Wilson, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and has been honored many times in the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service, serving for the Small Business Administration. I am proud to recognize him as one of my best friends during the last 25 years.

Not content to rest on his laurels at TSU, Dr. Wilson also served as a visiting professor at both Harvard and the University of Chicago. He shared his expertise as a valued consultant for a number of Federal agencies. As adviser to the Ford Foundation, in conjunction with Indiana University, he led a project that resulted in the successful establishment of the Institute of Business Administration in Dacca, Pakistan.

Dr. Wilson remained at TSU until 1970, when President Cheek of Howard University called him and offered him a new opportunity. President Cheek requested that he establish the Howard University School of Business and Public Administration. Dr. Wilson accepted this challenge. Through his efforts, Howard University became the first school in the Washington area to gain AACSB accreditation, first for its bachelor degree program and, ultimately for its accounting program.